

in 6-6386

10 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Plans  
Assistant Director/National Estimates  
Assistant Director/Current Intelligence

For what it may be worth, I leave with you the following thumbnail personal estimate on the significance of the recent shift in the leadership of the USSR. Of course, it may still be desirable in public statements to take an entirely different slant, but within the councils of our Government we must face facts, and on balance they seem to add up to me as follows:

The change in leadership and the shift in policy are thoroughly ominous developments.

There will be less chance of settling outstanding issues, large or small.

There will be more crises and greater chance that such crises may blow up to the point of shooting.

The long odds against World War III that we have been quoting must be lowered--by how much it is too early to predict.

If war does come, say three or five years from now, the USSR will be militarily considerably stronger than it would have been had the Malenkov policies continued.

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DDI:RAJr.:jm (10 Feb)

cc. 2 - O/DD/I ✓  
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25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW